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## HOME-MADE DECORATIONS.

BY HARRIET CANDEE.

MANY a poor soul in circumstances not only moderate, but cramped, looks with longing eye on the beautiful and artistic results of what might be called our renaissance, and with a discontented feeling that it were better not to have a cultivated taste if it must be coupled with a poverty prohibiting its indulgence.

It is a comparatively easy matter for a woman of means to tastefully fill her home with elegant and rare works of art, but it is infinitely more to the credit of a woman who, having but a slender purse, contrives so to employ the means at hand that a desirable effect is secured; and it is for this latter class that the following suggestions are made:

Almost every woman with a grandmother—aristocratically speaking—has in her possession one or more rare porcelain plaques which have miraculously escaped the devastation of Goths and Vandals to waste their lines of beauty and exquisite tints in the cupboard of some safe but concealing cabinet. To have the choice heirloom mounted at a framer's would, perhaps, cost just enough to persuade the owner to leave it a little longer in obscurity, but a description of two home-made plaque mountings may throw out sufficient suggestion to act upon, and the pretty plaques need no longer blush unseen. The first is the simpler, and involves the necessity of securing from a carpenter a square of half-inch pine or other wood, large enough to leave a wide margin around the plaque if it were placed in the centre. Nail small cleats on to the back to prevent warping, and cover the face with plain or embossed plush or velveteen, taking care to select a color harmonizing well with the tints of the plaque. A simple plaque hanger will serve to secure your porcelain to the background; and, if you have paints in the house, color each point that curls over the edge the same shade as the position of the plaque it rests upon. Screw eyes, placed well toward the top of the board, are inserted to hang the whole. Precautions must be taken to hang as flat against the wall as possible, else the plaque will fall forward from the mounting. The second method of mounting involves a little more labor, but the effect is so much better that "it pays." A square of half or three-quarter or inch board is the basis, but if it is not convenient or expedient to employ a carpenter, get a saw from somewhere about the house, and use the top of a tea or grocery box. Lay your plaque in the centre of the board and outline it with a pencil, then with the saw cut out the circle, smooth the edges with a knife, and cover the frame with plush, tacking it around the edges with gimp tacks and pasting around the hole with thick glue. Secure the plaque at the back by strips of leather or strong tape tacked across, and paste a sheet of thick wrapping paper over the whole. If the work is neatly done, the plaque will look as if framed to order. If the plaque is perfectly sound the frame may be suspended from one corner, making it appear diamond shaped.

There are very few women in these days of universal daubing who do not possess a set of brushes and colors. If any such there be, let them arm themselves immediately, for even those with but little artistic talent will find them most useful. If there is an empty shelf on a hanging

cabinet, or an empty bracket in the corner it can be prettily filled at a small cost or no cost at all if you have the right materials in the house. To begin with: A majolica pitcher or basket is needed, whose only requisite is beauty of line and symmetry of form, quality, and color going for nothing. If you happen to have one broken or cracked by table use, it will answer just as well provided the decorative design be floral. Mix on your palette the proper shades of brown, olive, or green (in oils) for a Limoges ground, which must be put on thickly and clouded, shading from dark to light toward the top, but always retain the same key. The raised flowers peculiar to majolica ware are then painted finely in bright natural colors. When the whole is dry, varnish with several coats of thick white varnish. This gives the effect of a porcelain glaze. A better way is to have it glazed but not fired. A pretty effect may be secured by not imitating a Limoges ground, for an imitation is at best a miserable sham, but instead make up a palette of Van Dyke brown, light blue, and pale gray, and, dipping a large sable brush into each color successively, apply to the surface in quick careless dabs until the whole

it firmness, and finish the edge below the trimming with tassels made of strings of beads. Dress plush is now selling at reduced prices; but, should it still be too dear, use felt for the scarf, and apply the bead trimming to a band of plush to be placed on the ends. A skillful embroiderer can widen the pattern by a judicious use of arrasene.

## ECONOMICAL HOME DECORATIONS.

(See opposite page.)

We give this month a full page of illustrations, containing a number of sketches of suggestions for home adornment, showing several articles of furnishing that have a very tasteful and pleasing effect, and yet may be made up at a comparatively small outlay.

The first instance, No. 1, combines a variety of ideas more or less new. The three-inch shelf about the top of the dado is, of course, designed to support plaques and small decorative pieces of the same character. The frieze is made from a chromo; one is selected that is comparatively quiet and retired in its patterns; the chromo makes a very bright and really a pretty effect, for it is so high up that the details are lost. The appearance, when finished with a border, is good. The oblong side panels consist of branches of natural bushes attached to the wall surface; these branches may be renewed as frequently as is necessary to keep them fresh. The frames for the pictures hanging on the wall are evidently of home make, and have a foundation of pasteboard, or perhaps wood, and are painted or worked as shown.

No. 2 is a small work-table, made in the semblance of a pillar or column. The article is composed of four circular pieces of wood, top, bottom and two intermediate shelves, and short sticks connecting them. The entire process is so well shown in the illustrations, that it makes any other explanation unnecessary.

No. 3 is an interior, giving a rather good idea for a fan frieze, and also indicating the proper way and height to hang pictures.

No. 4 contains several suggestions for mantel lambrequins, fitted to mantels of different shape. The material and in fact the scheme of decorating the lambrequin, must be left very much to the good taste of the person making use of the idea.

No. 5 shows a new scheme for book shelves. The frame work is made of gas pipe, having galvanized metal shelves. The uprights are fitted with T joints, as shown,

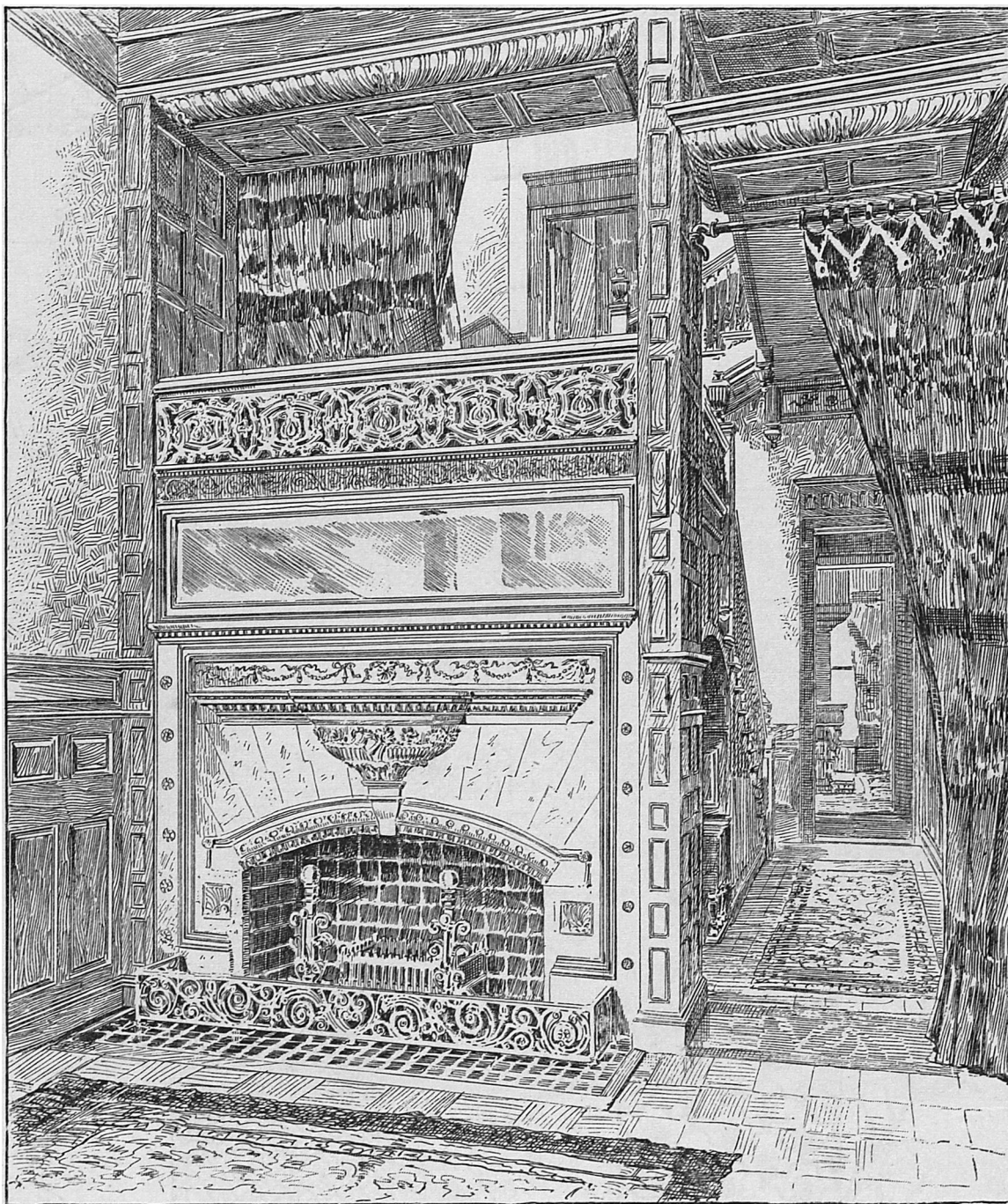
and the cross-pieces are provided with right and left hand screw threads. The entire article can be very quickly and readily taken apart or put up, and being the same upon all sides, may be stood in the centre of the room.

No. 6 might be termed a smoking set, as it is designed to hold tobacco, pipes and matches. It is made from a tomato can, to the top of which is soldered four pieces of telegraph wire, slightly bent, as shown, and at the connecting point adorned with a small tassel; from these four points strings are drawn by which to suspend it.

No. 7 gives an idea for filling a short corner between mantel and window or door. The book-shelf may be made by anyone having a little mechanical ability, or could be made by a carpenter.

No. 8 is given more to show the practicability of fixing a shelf to the side of an article of furniture upon which it would be suitable.

No. 9 has a neat arrangement for the window, a shelf being at the top, supported on either side by a bracket.



ENTRANCE AND HALL-WAY IN A FIFTH AVENUE HOUSE.

is covered. This gives a gray mottled effect which is an excellent ground for pink or red roses, or, in fact, almost any bright flower. No knowledge of drawing is required, for the raised design is already there, only be careful about the colors. If any part of the original design should appear inartistic, like a conventional vine or geometric pattern, cover that part with the ground colors, and paint as flowers only those deserving of the name.

An inexpensive table-scarf can be made by any one with a little ingenuity at a trifling cost, with very good results. Almost every woman's wardrobe contains an old frock trimmed with bead passementerie in steel gold or cashmere beads, which, because it was an expensive garniture, she hates to throw away yet will not wear it for fear of looking gaudily *passé*. Rip off the showy trimming which was always more suitable for fancy-work than personal adornment, and sew it carefully on a long breadth of plush across the ends. Line the whole with Canton flannel to give



